

**DRAFT Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
April 12, 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. Members in attendance: Dana Johnson, David Phillips, Anne Murphy, Geoff Snudden, Rod Bartlow, Blake Theisen, Ben Popp, Joel Patenaude. Staff: Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation), Ben Bergey (Department of Natural Resources), Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources).
2. Meeting minutes from January 11, 2017 were approved (Phillips moved, Popp seconded, all approved).
3. **Recreational Opportunities Analysis.** Theisen provided an overview of the DNR's Recreational Opportunities Analysis (ROA) project, which seeks to examine recreational demand and supply in Wisconsin (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/RecAnalysis/>). The DNR gathered representatives from all major statewide recreational groups. Three meetings have been held, with the attendees working on issues such as identifying where conflicts might occur and how to engage recreational users and the public. At this time, the critical piece for NRTTC members is to engage in the Northwoods Region public engagement process, including the online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NS7CLWB>) and public meetings (April 25 in Arbor Vitae, April 26 in Park Falls, April 27 in Antigo).
4. **DNR Report.** Public records training will take place at June 6 meeting. This is a state requirement for all appointed members of boards and councils. Members not in attendance will need to take the training at another time, prior to July 1.

The process to amend the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Master Plan regarding recreation is underway. More information is available on the web (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/nhal/>). Those interested in providing feedback about what changes to recreation opportunities they would like to see at NHAL can do so via an online survey (linked off of the web page above, direct link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXP95VN>). The ROA public meetings at the end of April will also be an opportunity to provide initial feedback about amending the NHAL Master Plan. Prior to going to the Natural Resources Board in late fall, a draft of the proposed Master Plan amendments will be available for public review, likely in July.

Both the ROA and the NHAL master plan amendment are related to motorized access planning (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/roadaccess.html>), which will be a topic on which the public can provide feedback at the ROA meetings.

In light of recent communications regarding Administrative Code proposals put forth by the department, Brown reiterated that the department is very willing to discuss proposals and take feedback and encouraged the council to ask the department on any department issues on which there are questions.

Ben Bergey, Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management, introduced himself and provided the council information about his background and philosophy and the DNR's Alignment process, which is currently being implemented. Changes include supporting recreation functions across the department via the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management. Ultimately, a goal of Alignment is to provide more consistent service to the public on issues like recreation.

5. **Electric Bikes Updates.** Geoff Snudden provided information to the council about legislation currently being drafted for Wisconsin. This legislation would be similar to what has recently passed in [Colorado](#) and [Utah](#). Sales of e-bikes are growing at a fair rate, with Q1 2017 sales about double that of the same time in 2016. Theisen suggested a bike ride after the June meeting at Schmeeckle (on the Green Circle State Trail); Snudden offered to provide electric bikes for those who are interested in trying one out.
6. **Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.** Dana Johnson will step down after the June meeting. Dave Phillips will head up a nominations committee on which Johnson will serve. Joel Patenaude is willing to serve as Chair. Position responsibilities include preparing agendas, reviewing minutes, running meetings. Phillips and Murphy thanked Johnson for her service, as encouraged other interested in running to contact him. Members interested in the Chair or Vice-Chair positions should contact Dave Phillips. Voting will take place at June meeting.

Rod Bartlow noted that the council's standing committees should be reviewed. Phillips agreed to make this part of the nominations committee's work, and will be an agenda item in June.

7. **Meeting dates.** The next meeting date is set for June 6 (changed from June 7) at [Schmeeckle Reserve](#) in Stevens Point (2419 Northpoint Drive), from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Theisen suggested a bike ride after the meeting. Those who are inclined can bring a bicycle, or let Snudden know if they would like to try an electric bike.
8. **Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned (Phillips moved, Murphy seconded, all approved).